

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 060831Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0994
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, JA, SU
SUBJECT: JSP CHAIRMAN REPORTEDLY PLANS U.S. AND
- USSR VISIT
REF: TOKYO 15563

1. MAINICHI SHIMBUN REPORTED SEPTEMBER 5 THAT JAPAN
SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) CHAIRMAN ICHIRO ASUKATA HOPED
TO VISIT U.S. IN EARLY NOVEMBER. REPORT SAID THAT
WHILE SCHEDULE HAD NOT BEEN FIRMED UP, ASUKATA WAS
HOPING TO ARRANGE U.S. VISIT FOLLOWING MEETING IN
VANCOUVER OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (NOVEMBER 3
THROUGH 5), AND WOULD BE SEEKING APPOINTMENTS
WITH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS.

2. PLAN FOR U.S. VISIT WAS CONVEYED TO MAINICHI BY
UPPER HOUSE MEMBER SEIICHI KAWAMURA IN CONTEXT OF
INTERVIEW ON RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS KAWAMURA
HELD IN MOSCOW AUGUST 29 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4 ON
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SCHEDULING FOR ASUKATA VISIT TO SOVIET UNION
(REFTEL). REGARDING VISIT TO MOSCOW, KAWAMURA
REPORTEDLY SAID SOVIETS HAD INFORMALLY AGREED
TO RECEIVE ASUKATA IN NOVEMBER, PRIOR TO OPENING
OF JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED
TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 15. KAWAMURA SAID ASUKATA'S
MOSCOW VISIT, WHICH WOULD BE FIRST HIGH-RANKING

JSP VISIT TO MOSCOW SINCE THEN PARTY SEC-GEN ISHIBASHI WENT THERE IN 1974, WAS DESIGNED TO HELP IMPROVE SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS IN WAKE OF PFT SIGNING, TO PROMOTE JSP PLAN FOR JAPAN-SOVIET PEACE TREATY, AND TO SEEK IMPROVED SOVIET OFFER AT FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, JSP WAS HOPING FOR MEETING WITH BREZHNEV.

3. DURING CONVERSATIONS IN MOSCOW, KAWAMURA SAID OFFICIALS IN COMMUNIST PARTY INTERNATIONAL BUREAU AND FOREIGN MINISTRY TOOK LINE THAT JAPAN-CHINA PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY RAISED SPECTRE OF U.S.-CHINA-JAPAN MILITARY ALLIANCE, AND THAT WHILE JAPAN'S FORMAL STATEMENTS EXPRESSING HOPE FOR CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION WERE FINE, ITS POLICIES WERE NOT CONSISTENT WITH ITS DECLARATION. WITH REGARD TO NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE, JSP'S INTERLOCUTORS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT CURRENT "STRENGTHENING" OF U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY STRUCTURE, "BRZEZINSKI POLICY LINE" OF U.S., CHINESE FOREIGN ACTIVITIES, AND "MILITARIZATION" OF JAPAN, MEANT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN TOKYO AND MOSCOW DID NOT MEET CONDITIONS, SPELLED OUT IN JAPAN-SOVIET JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF 1956, FOR RETURN OF TWO OF NORTHERN ISLANDS. SOVIETS ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WHILE ISSUE OF TERRITORIAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE TAKEN UP AS A GENERAL PROBLEM IN ANY PEACE TREATY BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND JAPAN, IT WOULD NOT BE CORRECT TO SAY THAT THERE WERE "UNRESOLVED TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

4. COMMENT: JSP INTERNATIONAL BUREAU STAFFERS HAVE HINTED TO EMBOFFS OVER PAST WEEK THAT THEY HOPED TO SEND SOME KIND OF JSP DELEGATION TO U.S. IN NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION THAT ASUKATA HIMSELF IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING U.S. VISIT. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS FOR U.S. TRIP IN CONTEXT OF PLANNING FOR MOSCOW VISIT WAS PROBABLY DESIGNED TO MOLLIFY PARTY LEFT-WING, WHICH HAS BEEN UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT EFFORT TO IMPROVE TIES WITH U.S. INASMUCH AS NO INCUMBENT JSP CHAIRMAN HAS EVER VISITED U.S., ASUKATA'S PLAN IS CERTAIN TO ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HERE AT SOME STAGE.

5. HOWEVER, U.S. VISIT REMAINS ONLY AN IDEA AT THIS POINT. JSP HAS NOT YET MADE FORMAL REQUEST TO EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH VISIT AND PLANS

COULD STILL BE UPSET BY OPPOSITION FROM PARTY
LEFT-WING (ESPECIALLY IF VISIT TO WASHINGTON
SCHEDULED TO PRECEDE MOSCOW STOP). WHILE
REPORT IMPLIES THAT JSP WOULD VIEW MEETINGS WITH
U.S. CONGRESSMEN AS SUFFICIENT RATIONALE FOR
U.S. VISIT, WE EXPECT PARTY WILL ALSO REQUEST
APPOINTMENTS WITH HIGH-RANKING ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIALS IF PLANS FOR VISIT MOVE FORWARD.
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